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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,336	03/29/2004	Stephen Grimes	1102865-0046	5110
7470	7590	06/23/2005	EXAMINER	
WHITE & CASE LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 1155 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10036			FOSTER, CHRISTINE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/813,336	GRIMES ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christine Foster	1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-80 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. It should be noted that claim 61 as written is dependent on claim 38. However, claim 61 recites a first agent and a second agent, which are recited in claim 39 but not in claim 38. For the purposes of restriction, claim 61 was therefore assumed to depend on claim 39.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-13 and 27-30, drawn to a method for determining gastrin hormone in a biological fluid sample, classified in class 435, subclass 7.93.
 - II. Claims 14-37, drawn to a method for determining the amount of free gastrin hormone in a biological fluid sample, classified in class 435, subclass 7.94.
 - III. Claim 38, drawn to a method for determining the total amount of bound plus free peptide in a biological sample, classified in class 435, subclass 7.92.
 - IV. Claims 39-80, drawn to a method of evaluating a gastrin hormone-blocking treatment of a patient, classified in class 424, subclass 158.1.

3. Inventions I-IV are independent and patentably distinct. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are independent and patentably distinct methods that differ with respect to one or more of ingredients, method steps, and/or endpoints; therefore, each method is patentably distinct. Furthermore, the distinct ingredients, method steps, and/or endpoints require separate and distinct searches. As such, it would be burdensome to search these inventions together.

Group I is drawn to a method for determining the total amount of gastrin hormone in a biological fluid sample that includes the step of providing an immobilized antibody that selectively binds a C-terminal epitope of gastrin hormone, which is not a limitation of Groups II-IV; Group II is drawn to a method for determining the amount of free gastrin hormone, which includes the step of providing an immobilized antibody that selectively binds an N-terminal epitope of gastrin hormone; Group III is a method for determining the total amount of bound plus free peptide in a biological sample, wherein at least a portion of the peptide is reversibly bound at a first binding sequence, which includes the step of incubating the sample in the presence of a fragment of the peptide; and Group IV is a method of evaluating a gastrin hormone-blocking treatment of a patient suffering from a gastrin hormone-mediated disease or condition that includes the step of performing a diagnosis on the basis of the disease or condition to be treated.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and as shown by their different classification, and the searches required for one group are not required for the others, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Foster whose telephone number is (571) 272-8786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached at (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christine Foster
Christine Foster
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1641

J. Smith
LONG V. LE
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06/20/05